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cumstances pretty favourable for a close inspection into the manners of the inhabitants.

I am unable to join in the eulogy on them for their simplicity, as making allowances for many honourable exceptions from general character, which ought to be made in every liberal estimate of a country, they appeared to be rather unsocial to strangers, and ready to take advantage in dealing: committing perhaps not many atrocious frauds, but pursuing that line of petty warfare, which is designated by the names of trick and cunning.—Zealous, enthusiastic, and even fanatical in their notions of religion, they are not restrained in their conduct by the laws of a strict morality.—Their religion partook more of warm devotional feeling, carried to high extravagance, than of sedate, well regulated principle, pervading the whole tenour of their actions. Wales is peculiarly the scene of those wild enthusiasts, the Jumpers. I have heard many well authenticated instances of their extravagance, which were not always confined to their meeting-houses, for when thoroughly heated by their fanaticism, and jumping, which latter is in their phrase to get nearer to heaven, they have rushed out, and annoyed their more peaceable neighbours, by the violence of their misguided devotion, which in many cases bordered on frenzy. Yet I did not find that these zealots were distinguished for superior propriety of conduct in their general dealings.—They thus afforded another instance that extravagance of zeal is very frequently not accompanied with increased sanctity of life, or purity of manners.

With part of your Correspondent's observations, on the poor laws, as connected with the "Caution to Vagrants," at Shrewsbury, I participate in a similar feeling: but I think some of his remarks are not sufficiently calculated to discourage mendicity. It has been well remarked, "that on the day a man becomes a beggar, he loses half his worth." I would wish by all means to encourage a spirit of independence among the poor, nay, even almost approaching to pride, which would scorn to re-

ceive parochial or other relief, except on extraordinary emergencies. Hence I am not inclined to blame the enforcing of regulations against idle strollers and vagrants. They are too often pests to society.

The poor who are really suffering, and often feel complicated distresses, claim the compassion and attention of those in more comfortable circumstances: but I have often seen sturdy vagrants, who could make more by begging, than the sober and industrious could earn by labour. This is surely not as it should be, and requires the remedial correction of a vigilant police. Under certain circumstances indiscriminating charity, becomes a premium for idleness and profligacy.

I have received so much pleasure from the general tenour of your Correspondent's judicious remarks, that I am unwilling to conclude without apologizing to him for the liberty I have taken in expressing my dissent from him in some particulars, but my object is to promote free discussion, and an *eclaircissement*, on such points as may tend to produce a clear and impartial estimate of character.

A TRAVELLER.

#### REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

*Continued from p. 176, No. XIV.*

HAVING submitted to your Grace the result of our inquiries into the funds and revenues of the Incorporated Society, we proceed to report to your Grace upon the conduct and management of the Institution.

The business of the society is transacted by committees, under the controul of a general board, which meets regularly on the first Wednesday in every month, and on other days when specially summoned by requisition, signed by seven members. There are four committees;

- 1st. The Committee of fifteen,
- 2d. The Committee of Accounts,
- 3d. The Law Committee,
- 4th. The Committee for examining into the qualifications of persons who offer themselves as candidates for the situations of masters, mistresses, and assistants in the schools.

Of these, the principal is the committee of fifteen, which is elected an-

nually by ballot on the first Wednesday in February, and which meets regularly every Wednesday in the year, and oftener when necessary. Upon this committee almost the whole weight of the labour of management rests; it is empowered to transact all the ordinary business of the society, except the election and dismissal of officers and of masters and mistresses, and the letting leases of the society's lands, which act can only be done by a general board. The duties of the committee of fifteen are various, to the adequate discharge of which much zeal, integrity and assiduity are indispensably required; and on the manner in which these duties are performed, the welfare of the whole establishment principally depends. The three first of these committees seem coeval with the society; the fourth, the committee for examining into the qualifications of masters, mistresses, and assistants to the schools, was appointed in the year 1804. This committee, as well as the committee of fifteen, is open to every member of the society, and public notice is given of the days on which examinations of the candidate masters, &c. are to be held. The effects resulting from the appointment of this committee, appear to have been highly salutary and important, in excluding unqualified, and bringing forward meritorious candidates. The officers of the society are, a secretary, at a salary of two hundred and fifty pounds per annum; a clerk, or register, at one hundred guineas per annum; and an inspector of apprentices in the city of Dublin, at a salary of twenty pounds per annum. In addition to these committees and officers resident and acting in the city of Dublin, each school is under the immediate direction of a local committee, consisting of the principal resident Protestant gentlemen and ladies of the neighbourhood, and of a catechist, who is always a clergyman of the established church, and generally the curate of the parish in which the school is situated. It is the duty of the catechist to superintend the education of the children generally, and more especially their religious instruction, and to communicate monthly his observations upon the state of the school, and conduct of

the master, and, in concert with the local committee, to exercise general controul, examine and settle accounts, and report every quarter to the committee of fifteen in Dublin.

In theory, no constitution seems better calculated to advance the purposes of the society than the establishment of local committees; but it appears, from the experience, as well of this society as of the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge in Scotland, that local committees are not to be universally or implicitly relied upon, either as an effectual means of controul over the management of the schools, or as accurate organs of communication of their actual state. To this general observation, there are some highly honourable exceptions to be made. But it appears that the society has not unfrequently been misled as to the actual state of their schools, by the too favourable representations of their local committees. We must not omit, that there is a standing rule of the society, that their schools shall be at all seasonable hours open to the inspection of any gentleman or lady who may think proper to visit them, who are also requested to write their observations in a book kept in every school for the purpose; and the several masters are required, under pain of dismission, to return true copies of such observations, once in every quarter.

The words of the original charter do not restrain the admission of children to any particular sect. It appears, however, that by two resolutions of general boards, one holden on the 15th day of March 1775, and the other on the 4th day of December 1776, the admission of children was for a long time almost entirely confined to such as were of popish parents. But this practice not appearing to be warranted by the charter, those resolutions were at a general board, holden on the 4th day of May 1803, unanimously rescinded; and since that period, all children who appeared to be proper objects, have been admitted, without any distinction, on account of the religious profession of their parents, excepting only into the two Ranelagh schools of Ath-

lone and Roscommon, which were endowed for the education of poor Protestants only, and the Lintown factory, near Kilkenny, the admission into which is restrained by the will of the founder to children of Popish parents.

The age of admission into the nurseries, is from four to six, into the schools from six to ten; the children are kept in the schools until they are apprenticed. There are printed forms of application for admission, which must be signed by the parents, if alive, and in Ireland, and if not, by the nearest of kin in whose care the child is. When the parents applying are of the Popish persuasion, it is distinctly stated to them, that their child, if received into the care of the society, will be educated in the Protestant religion, and unless the parents unequivocally express their full approbation, admission is refused. Parents and relations are allowed at all times to visit their children, except in the Dublin schools, where the applications were so frequent, that it was found necessary to fix a particular day in each week for the purpose. The restriction which required that the master or mistress should be present at these interviews, is not generally enforced, unless some improper conduct on the part of the parent require it. Children are sometimes returned to their parents, where it is ascertained to the satisfaction of the Society, that, from change in the circumstances of the parents it is likely to be of advantage to the child to be so returned; the general rule is, that in such cases the parent shall reimburse the society the expenses which have been incurred; but this rule is in all proper cases dispensed with. Applications for the restoration of children are not numerous. At present, admission into the schools is generally the subject of earnest solicitation, and no effort is required on the part of the society to fill their schools and nurseries.

The children under the care of the society are fed by contract with the masters; and in all the nurseries and schools, excepting three, are also clothed by contract. Though some well-founded objections may be al-

leged against this system, yet, from the nature of the institution, it seems the only practicable method that can be adopted; and the society have provided checks against speculation and abuses. From the reports of the visitors lately employed by us to inspect these schools, it may be inferred, that these contracts are at present faithfully executed, as it appears that the children in general were healthy and well clad. The rate of the contract for feeding is generally four pence per head *per diem*, in the schools and nurseries in the country; and it varies from five pence to five pence three farthings, in those in and near the city of Dublin. The contract for clothing is two pounds four shillings for each boy, and one pound nineteen shillings for each girl. The dietary is set forth in the appendix to this report. Bedsteads and bedding, and all the necessary furniture of the school-houses, are supplied by the society.

The children are removed, or, as the society terms it, transplanted from the nurseries to schools, and from one school to another. The three general causes for transplantation are:

1st. The necessity of removing children from nurseries to schools, which ought regularly to be done when the children in the former attain the age of seven or eight years.

2dly. The equable distribution of children among the several schools of the establishment; for, a great proportion of the whole number being admitted in Dublin, it becomes frequently necessary to remove them from the schools in the neighbourhood of the capital, and to send them to others where there happen to be vacancies made by children who have been apprenticed. Similar circumstances frequently require the removal of children from one country school to another.

3dly. The interference of parents with respect to the religion of their children. The avowed object of the society being to educate the children entrusted to its care in the established religion, whenever this object is likely to be interrupted by the interference of the parent, the child is removed from the neighbourhood of the parent's residence to a more distant

school. But this measure does not appear to be now often rendered necessary; and the two prevailing causes for removal appear to be the former, and to arise necessarily from the very nature of the establishment. It appears that great care is taken to prevent the health of the children from suffering by removals, which are, as far as is practicable, confined to the spring and summer season, and proper cars, with a covering to protect the children from the weather, but not to conceal them from public view, are provided for the purpose. It appears, however, that this frequent necessity for removal is a serious inconvenience, attended with trouble, risk, and expense, and that this inconvenience is greatly augmented by the existence of the nurseries.

The children in those schools are taught reading, writing and arithmetic, and instructed in the principles of the Protestant religion, as by law established. The books used are set forth in the appendix. In this list was found till very lately the catechism entitled, "*The Protestant Catechism*;" but this formula of instruction, justly liable to exception, has been wholly discontinued in all the schools, by a late order of the society. The Holy Scriptures are not only read, but made the subject of exposition, and the foundation of religious instruction; and the proficiency which many of the children have obtained in useful and practical knowledge derived from this service, appears from the reports of our visitors to be highly gratifying and satisfactory. In the school of Clontarf for boys, and of Baggot-street for girls, it appears that a class has been established under the direction of the society, to be instructed in such a course as may qualify them for the situations of assistants, in these and other schools: the experiment seems to have been already attended with success, and, if well followed up, may be productive of considerable advantage to general education. With respect to industry, the labour of the children (subject to the rules of the society as to the time allotted for education, meals, refreshment, and play) is at present at the disposal of the several masters, who are charged at the

rate of twenty shillings per annum, on three-fourths of the children under their care; one fourth being supposed, from youth and occasional infirmity, to be incapable of productive industry. Their employments are various, and in some schools appear to be judiciously conducted. But in this department there seems to be room for much improvement.

The children educated in the Charter Schools are apprenticed to Protestant masters only. A list is kept in every school, and returned to the society once in every quarter, signed by the Catechist of such children, who from age, advancement in learning and religious knowledge, are fit to be apprenticed. When the boys are apprenticed to trades, the master is allowed a fee of five guineas; and when girls, a fee of seven guineas, payable at the periods and subject to the restrictions set forth in the appendix. When children are apprenticed as servants, no fee is payable. Both boys and girls are entitled to receive a bounty of three guineas at the end of their apprenticeships, provided they produce a certificate from their masters or mistresses of faithful service, and from the clergyman of the parish in which they are resident, of continuance in the Protestant religion. All children apprenticed are supplied with a set of books, and when the indentures are signed, a letter is written by the secretary, in the name of the society, to the clergyman of the parish in which the master or mistress resides, requesting his attention to their conduct, and to that of the apprentice, particularly as to his attendance upon the public duties of religion; and that he will report, as occasion may require, to the committee of fifteen. When children are apprenticed in Dublin, there is also, in addition to the written testimonial required in all cases, a previous inspection and inquiry into the situation, circumstances, and character of the master, before the child is bound. Notwithstanding these precautions, which do not appear to have been attended with the desired success, we are concerned to state, that it appears from a return made to us, and given, in Appendix No. 1. that a

large proportion of the masters of children apprenticed, do not receive the last part of their apprentice-fee, and of the children, the bounty for faithful service; and it was not until the last year, that the committee of fifteen, in order to ascertain what became of their apprentices, have employed a person to inquire into the state of the children now serving their time in the neighbourhood of the several schools out of which they were bound. Reports have already been received of one thousand and twenty-one apprentices. It appears, that during the last seven years, there have been apprenticed to trades nine hundred and five boys and girls, and to services four hundred and forty-six; total 1351: average of each year 193. And the number of children received into the several schools and nurseries, during the last seven years, have been two thousand six hundred and nineteen; average of each 374. And the average number of children maintained and educated in these schools during the last seven years has been two thousand and ninety-three, of which number 1289 were boys, and 804 were girls; and the number under the care of the society on the 29th of September 1808, was two thousand two hundred and fifty-one, of which number 1360 were boys, and 891 girls. The average annual expenditure of the society for the last seven years, has been thirty thousand one hundred and fifty-seven pounds fifteen shillings and sixpence, including every expense of feeding, clothing, education, salaries, repairs of buildings, and new buildings, bounties, apprentice fees, and marriage portions; dividing this by 2093, the average number of children maintained and educated, it appears that the average annual expense of each child to the institution, has been fourteen pounds eight shillings and two pence. And as the average time which each child remains under the care of the society, is stated to us to be seven years, it follows, that each child costs the society, from the period of admission to the close of his apprenticeship, the sum of one hundred pounds seventeen shillings and two pence.

The present state and condition of

the charter schools, in every respect, will appear by the reports of the visitors employed by us, and hereunto annexed; and also by a report from the Lord Bishop of Derry, who kindly undertook to visit three of the most remote northern schools, viz. Ray, Ballycastle, and Ballykelly, which report is also subjoined, and which contains his Lordship's sentiments as to the means of their improvement. It was conceived, that any information which we could derive upon this subject from persons concerned in the management of the institution in any of its departments, might be liable to exception; it was therefore determined to employ persons whose characters entitled them to the confidence of this board, to make an actual survey or inspection of all the schools. For this purpose, the Rev. Dr. Beaufort, and Mr. Corneille, our secretary, were selected; and their reports, together with that of the Bishop of Derry, contain a statement founded on actual survey of all the schools and nurseries. They correspond in the main with the observations of members of this board, who have visited these schools, and we are satisfied, present a true and correct statement of their actual condition. The contrast they form with reports heretofore made of the state of those schools from unquestionable authority, is highly honourable to the late exertions of the committees of fifteen, who appear to have devoted themselves with equal zeal, ability and success, to their laborious and important duties. This contrast is calculated to excite an expectation, that a much higher degree of improvement is attainable, under a continuance of the same system. Without entering at present into the consideration how far the main purpose of the institution might be more effectually advanced upon a plan essentially different, we think it right to suggest those obvious points of improvement and correction, which arise out of a view of the documents and information laid before us. It appears;

First. That though the recent suppression of some ill-situated and ill-conducted schools has been productive

of considerable advantage, the number and dispersion of the schools still remaining, renders the management of them complicated, and the inspection difficult.

2dly. That some of the schools still remaining are much too small; others unprovided with sufficient infirmaries, dining-halls, working rooms, and other necessary accommodations; and that one is without any endowment of land for the use of the school-master. That some of the school-houses are not in a state of repair, and that it would require a considerable sum to place all the schools of the establishment in such thorough and perfect order, as would adapt them to answer the purposes of the institution.

3dly. That the provincial nurseries being in their original plan and general arrangement, calculated chiefly for the reception of children of very tender years, the education of such children as are suffered to remain there after the age of eight years, cannot be so well attended to, as in schools where instruction and moral discipline are the principal objects.

4thly. That the regular removal of children at the proper age from nurseries to schools, is impracticable, as it depends upon the contingency of the schools within proper distance affording a sufficient number of vacancies at the seasons suited for removing them.

5thly. That the frequent transplantation of children is an evil, and greatly augmented in consequence of the number of schools, and the existence of the nurseries.

6thly. That no sufficient provision has been yet made for continuing the superintending care of the society over the children apprenticed; nor has there been any registry kept of their conduct and progress after leaving the schools, except so far as can be collected from the registry of apprentice fees and bounties paid.

7thly. That the reports of local committees in general are not implicitly to be depended on, and that some additional provisions for inspecting and reporting the state of these schools from time to time seems to be indispensably necessary.

8thly. That the society have laboured under considerable difficulty in carrying repairs and alterations of buildings into execution in several places, and that wasteful and injudicious expenditure has been the necessary consequence, in spite of all the vigilance and caution that could be exercised by the committee in Dublin.

9thly. That the establishment called The Dublin Nursery, in Charlemount-street, is an inadequate one; and that the infirmary for the diseased of all the schools, attached to the school of Clontarf, ought to be wholly separated from it, and made a distinct establishment.

10thly. That in general the labour of the children is not as judiciously disposed of as it might be wished; that the system in this respect is defective and calls for improvement.

In thus enumerating the points in which improvement seems to be called for, we do not mean to impute any blame to the governing body; much solid improvement has been effected in the face of many difficulties, and in a short space of time; and it is to be expected, that in the management of a complicated system, involving not education only, but the clothing and maintenance of above two thousand two hundred children, scattered in thirty-nine different establishments, and the regulating the concerns of a very extensive landed and funded property, some points should have escaped the vigilance and baffled the effects of the committees of fifteen.

The defects above enumerated suggest the proper remedies:

1st, That such schools as are too small, scantily-endowed with land, inconvenient in point of situation or accommodation, and out of repair, should be suppressed, as soon as accommodation can be provided for the children therein contained, by the enlargement of schools, better adapted in every respect to answer the purposes of the institution.

2dly. That the establishments now called nurseries, namely, those of Monsterevan, Monivea, and Shannongrove, be converted into schools, in which education and industry shall be the principal objects; from which

essential points the attention of the superintendants is now necessarily diverted by the care required in the management of the health of a number of small children.

3dly. That in order to carry this measure into effect, no children be henceforth admitted till they have attained the age of six years.

4thly. That visitors be henceforth employed by the society, as well to inspect the state of the schools as often as may appear to be necessary, as to inquire into and report upon the state of the children who have been apprenticed.

5thly. That a registry be kept of the situation, conduct, and progress of the children apprenticed, founded upon those reports, so as henceforward to present, as far as possible, an accurate view of the progress of each child, to the termination of its apprenticeship.

6thly. That the alterations, additions and improvements that may be projected, and the general superintendence of the buildings of the society, in future, be placed under the direction of one or more competent architects; and that all future alterations and additions to the buildings of the society be founded on reports to be received from persons qualified and employed for the purpose, and not merely on local information transmitted.

7thly. That with a view to the improvement of the children in industry, it may perhaps be advisable, that in some schools labour should be made more peculiarly the object than in others; that the employments to be pursued in each school (and which might be more diversified than at present) should be settled by the society, on consideration of its particular circumstances and situation; that to excite the industry of the children, some part of their earnings should be allotted to their use; and in some schools, such as Clontarf, near Dublin, some additional branches of instruction, as for example, mathematics, surveying, and navigation, &c. might with advantage be introduced. The detail of arrangements by which such improvements are to be carried into effect, must be left

to the discretion of the governing body of the society, and would be much facilitated by the reduction of the number of schools already recommended.

8thly. That with a view to direct the public attention continually to these schools, and their progress, we recommend that annual reports on their state and progressive improvement, should be made by the society to the Lord Lieutenant, or to the Board of Education; so long as it may continue to exist.

The wretched state of these schools, at the period when Mr. Howard visited them, appears from his report, which was confirmed by the evidence taken before the former commissioners of education, and by reports drawn up by some members of that board. What degree of prosperity the institution may have attained to at an earlier period of its existence, before the zeal which gave birth to it had in any degree subsided, we have not been able accurately to ascertain. Probably at its commencement, and for some years after, it was in a much more flourishing state than at later periods; but it is certain that from the period of Mr. Howard's report, till some time after the rebellion of 1798 (though some defects might have been remedied in consequence of Mr. Howard's statements, and the investigation of a committee of the House of Commons in Ireland) no considerable reformation had taken place in the state of these schools. For about the last mentioned year, and for some time after, it appears that most of the buildings were in a very ruinous condition, and some of the schools in a state of great neglect and disorder; and they appear to have sunk into this condition from several causes:

1st. Too much caution and reserve as to expenditure, proceeding probably in part from alarm excited by the situation of public affairs.

2dly. The too general supineness of local committees, or their mistaken lenity in forbearing to report on the misconduct of masters.

3dly. The difficulty of procuring a sufficiently constant and regular at-



tendance of the committees of fifteen in Dublin; for the duties of this office requiring time and labour, there have been certainly periods when the business of the society in Dublin has experienced considerable interruption, and the general discipline of the schools has been relaxed in consequence. Their present state of improvement is to be attributed principally to the zeal and exertions of the several successive committees of fifteen, of late years, as already remarked; and it may be here proper to observe, that their prosperity can subsist no longer than while the same causes continue to operate with the same energy. The means by which (in addition to the effects resulting necessarily from a regular discharge of the ordinary business of the society) this improvement has been effected, appear to be chiefly the following:

1st. A just but necessary severity in the dismissal of masters and mistresses, on the discovery of neglect and abuse.

2dly. The establishment of a committee for the purpose of examining into the qualifications of masters, mistresses, and assistants to the schools.

3dly. A more liberal expenditure in the allowances to the several masters, &c. on the contracts for cloathing and feeding the children, and in the article of repairs, alterations, and additions to buildings.

4taly. The employment of an inspector sent from Dublin to all the schools of the Society. It appears that this person was originally employed to instruct the children in psalmody; but, in consequence of frequent judicious and useful remarks communicated by him, the committee of fifteen were induced to enlarge his commission to a general inspection of several of the schools, and of the children apprenticed from them. The benefits resulting from this partial adoption of the system of inspection, confirms us in our expectation of the advantages that may result from its establishment upon a more liberal and extended scale.

Whilst we warmly and sincerely applaud the pious and patriotic efforts

of those who contributed to the establishment, and laboured for the success of this institution, we feel ourselves bound to state, that during a very considerable period of its existence, it appears to have fallen short of attaining the purposes for which it was established, and to have failed of one great object, that was intended and expected from it—the conversion of the lower orders of the inhabitants of Ireland from the errors of Popery. The utter inadequacy of the institution in point of magnitude and extent, for that object, is sufficient to account for this failure, independently of the operation of other causes. The number of Popish children in all the schools at any one time has probably never amounted to sixteen hundred; and this must have borne so small a proportion to the whole number to be educated, as to have had no sensible influence on the great mass of population, even allowing, that all who were educated in these schools, continued in the Protestant persuasion; this however is certainly not the fact; and though it is impossible to ascertain the number of those who have returned to the Popish persuasion, there is reason to believe that it has not been inconsiderable. But, there is another important end of the institution which has always been answered by it, to a certain extent, and appears at this time to be attained in a very high degree indeed—the instruction of so great a number of poor and destitute children, bringing them up to habits of industry, and qualifying and enabling them to become useful members of society; advantages of peculiar importance in a country abounding in population, and where no general public fund is provided for relieving the distresses of the poor. It is in this point of view, we cannot but recommend the institution as deserving the continuance of that legislative patronage and support which it has so long enjoyed: and we are persuaded, that if the zeal now so happily excited for the general advancement of moral and religious education of the poor, and which has already produced such salutary effects, shall continue to operate in

giving full efficacy to the measures recommended in this report, the most beneficial consequences may be expected to result to this part of the empire. It appears that the reluctance of Popish parents to commit their children to the care of the society, seems to have considerably subsided. Constant instances occur, of earnest solicitations by Popish parents for the admission of their children into these schools, few of applications for their being returned. The prejudice, which formerly existed against them in a much greater degree than at present, was probably augmented by the disrepute into which several of the schools had deservedly fallen, by the society having, contrary to the letter, as well as the spirit of the original charter, confined the admission of children almost exclusively to those born of Popish parents, and thus given it the appearance of an institution established solely for the purpose of conversion to the Protestant religion; and by exaggerated notions of the course of instruction pursued. Such impressions will assuredly abate in proportion to the confidence that must result from general good management, from the liberal principles by which admission is now regulated, and from the society having removed a well-founded objection to the course of religious education, by the discontinuance of the formula, called "The Protestant Catechism."

On the subject of the consolidation of the schools, which we have recommended to a certain extent, we are aware that many important ends of the institution might perhaps be more effectually attained in four great establishments, each containing from five to six hundred children; the management would thus be rendered more simple, the superintendence more easy and efficient, the expense considerably smaller, and the field for improvement more extensive. The methods for conducting such establishments, which have been of late years so happily introduced, are a great additional advantage; and if the whole institution were now to be begun, would probably determine us to give them a decided preference, but we are restrained by the con-

sideration, that such a plan would involve the abandonment of almost all the present establishments and buildings connected with them (on some of which considerable sums have been lately expended) as well as of the endowments of land annexed to them respectively; that several of the present schools were actually founded in consequence of donations or bequests to the society expressly appropriated to their support, and which we are therefore clearly of opinion ought not to be given up; that the erection of four great schools on the plan alluded to would be attended with a great immediate expense, in addition to that of supporting the present schools, till they were completed: And we cannot but bear in mind, that the original object of the whole institution of the charter schools was to afford the opportunity and advantage of Protestant education to as many districts as possible. We are therefore of opinion, that a considerable number of the present schools should be retained, and that as well in retaining those as in suppressing others, regard should be had not only to the convenience of their situation for forming larger and more useful establishments, but also to the extent of their influence in encouraging and diffusing the Protestant religion.

With respect to the rules of the society annexed to this report (see Appendix, No. 5.) they are several of them of long standing, and some of them inconsistent with the principles on which the institution is now conducted. This inconsistency points out the necessity of a revision of these rules, with a view to the omission of all such as are obsolete in practice; and we have recommended such revision to the society accordingly.

*Council Chamber, Dublin Castle.*

*December 29th, 1808.*

Wm. Armagh. (L. S.) Jas. Verschoyle, Dean of  
Chas. Dubhn. (L. S.) St Patrick's, (L. S.)  
G. Hall, Provost. (L. S.) Jas. Whitelaw. (L. S.)  
Wm. Disney. (L. S.) K. L. Edgeworth, (L. S.)

*A correct copy.*

JOHN CORNEILLE.

Sec. to the Commissioners.

*We have now given entire, the three Reports from the Board of Education. We design hereafter, to make some extracts from the voluminous Appendix. For our next number we are promised a review of these Reports.*

*taking a comprehensive view of the state of education in Ireland, and the necessity of a reform in the management of the funds allotted to it; and contrasting the little good done by the large funds in Ireland, with the great advantages accruing from the well managed and economical plan of parish schools in Scotland.*

*For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.*

#### NATIONAL SCHOOLS.

ON the authority of the Gentleman's Almanack, for the year 1789, I took the number of parishes in Ireland at 2293, and stated the sum requisite accordingly at 120,000*l.* and allowing this variation between the old and new Almanacks to arise from the former, considering every united parish as one, and the latter as two or three, my original calculation will be still correct. But even granting the incorrectness of the old, and the correctness of the new Almanacks, taking the number of parishes at 2436, and allowing the visitors one pound for each school, actually visited, still would the sum of 130,000*l.* be fully adequate to meet all the expenses of this great national object...*the civil and moral instruction of the people of Ireland.* I thank Quinctius for the above correction and for his well-timed hint in regard to charter-schools. The sum of 30,000*l.* procured by melting down the charter-schools, &c. into this scheme, not to mention the useless waste of the public money on endowed schools, would reduce the sum requisite to be levied off the nation for this great national purpose, to 100,000*l.* In one of his calculations he has, however, misunderstood my plan: he has added the expense of building to the first year's endowment, whereas my plan devotes the first year's endowment to the building, and the first year's visitation to the establishing of the various schools, which were to commence the year following, and to be afterwards conducted without any interruption or confusion.

I must also differ with Quinctius in the sum requisite for building the school-houses. Many of these are already built in convenient situations, and in this case, the first year's endowment is sufficient for the house, and permanent establishment of a

master. And the sale of those that are not in central situations, will contribute largely with the government grant to the establishment of school-houses in more convenient situations. The parochial grant is made discretionary, that it may depend on the abilities and public spirit of each parish, how much will be added to the *needful* grant of government for the comfortable support of the establishment. The preference of a married to a single man as a teacher, will of course strike every parochial committee as providing for the education of more scholars, and particularly of females, on the most effectual and most natural plan.

Quinctius will see that I confine the masters to the recommendation of *Christian morals*, contained in the scriptures, leaving the peculiar doctrines to their respective spiritual guides. And this liberty without licentiousness I consider one of the excellencies of the plan.

Another excellence, I had almost said perfection, of my plan is, that it prevents as much as possible the inroads of influence, corruption, and *sinecureism* in every department. The teacher's abilities, conduct, and exertions, are kept in constant check by at least three of a judicious parochial committee; that committee's attention, as well as that of the masters, by the county visitor, and the attention of the visitors, parochial committees, and masters, by the minuteness of the visitor's report to the supreme committee, by a sense of duty, and the paternal regard to be evinced in their annual report to the public. Their suggested improvements would again descend through the Established, Dissenting, and Catholic clergy to the visitors, the parochial committees, the masters, the parents, and the children. Thus would the ascending and descending report resemble the exhalations attracted from the grosser dregs of earth, that after passing through the great alembic of the atmosphere, and distilling their refined essence on the drooping herbage, continue the same incessant round of still renewing life to the produce of parent earth.

As to the triple stem of places and sinecures, I cannot suppose Quinctius